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ALBANIAN MINISTER URGES PARTY SECURITY MEASURES

Shehu quoted from two alleged statements of captured enemy agents. One of them who had parachuted into Albania told his captors, Shehu declared, that before he started for Albania he was told that the Albanian mountains were full of antigovernment people ready to assist him, but found the opposite to be true. Shehu next quoted the statement of another captured enemy agent. "This man," he said "is a qualified agent with a long record in the service of a foreign country against our country. In his testimony the man said: 'We thought that we had to deal with a weak government and an ignorant people; we thought you could not catch us. Now that I am in your hands, I am convinced that the future of the world belongs to you Communists.'"

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However, Shehu warned his listeners not to become complacent because of these successes. He asked them to be vigilant, to fight the enemy mercilessly. He asked the Communist Party of Albania to cooperate with the security police, and cited the committees of the Communist Party in Valona and Tepelene as examples of such cooperation. He mentioned the vigilant activities of several groups in Mirëditë, Kurvelesh, and Lesh. He said that Koci Xoxe, as Minister of the Interior and secretary of the Communist Party units, had put the party under the complete control of his own security organs. "This procedure was liquidated after the first Congress of the Party as Trotskyite activity. But," Shehu went on, "in liquidating this we went to the other extreme, overlooking enemy action within the ranks of the Party."

This extreme position according to Shehu, has made it possible for enemy agents to conceal themselves within the Party ranks. Because of immunity from the security police afforded members of the Albanian Communist Party, Shehu complained that "enemy agents could remain undetected by the security police till they actually performed flagrant acts of sabotage or fled the country. This weakness has been exploited by the enemy, especially the Titoists. ... The security organs are to fight the enemy, regardless of whether the enemy hides under the garb of a cleric, a technician, a non-Party man, or a member of the Party." Shehu declared that he was going to correct this deficiency in the security setup, but he also promised not to go to the extreme of Koci Xoxe, by subordinating the party to the security police and planting his own security cells inside the Party units.

In addition to lack of vigilance, Shehu complained of inadequate efforts to raise the ideological caliber of the security forces. "People are still reluctant to study Marxist literature," he said. However, he declared that this year changes have been made in this direction. All employees of the Ministry of the Interior, from soldiers and policemen to the highest officials, "take part in programs for their ideological and political development. But, in spite of this, the resistance to study is apparent."

Another deficiency in the Ministry of the Interior, according to Shehu's self-criticism, is the lack of efficient administrative operations. "A great fight is going on in our agencies to establish administrative regulations." Other deficiencies are to be found in the ministry's personnel system. As an example of this, he told of a person who had been recommended for a responsible security position by the personnel section of the Ministry of the Interior. After he had completed the training course, and during re-examination of all the trainees' life histories, it was found that the man had been a Ballist [member of Balli Kombëtar].

Shehu also complained about the establishment of the personnel system at the Kucove Combine where Thoma Pojani, chief of the price section, was found to be "undesirable." According to Shehu, Pojani had finished the Fultz Technical School [a US school at Tirana headed by Harry Fultz], and allegedly had been closely associated with the Italian Fascists. Shehu accused Thoma Pojani of sabotaging the petroleum works at Patos and held him responsible for the loss of petroleum at the same place. "He has been closely connected with Trotskyite Yugoslav engineers, has systematically fought Soviet experience, and spreads propaganda against the state." Shehu observed in conclusion that Pojani joined the Albanian Communist Party when Albania was liberated, but he was expelled from the party in 1946.

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